

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00122 141331Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8015

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0122

LIMDIS

E.O. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TGEN, ETRD, XM, UY, US

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON WGSTT, TRADE ACT AND
BUENOS AIRES MFM

REF: MVD 101 AND 76

1. DURING COURSE OF RECEPTION EVENING JAN 13 IN HONOR VISITING
SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE DELEGATION, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK BRIEFLY
WITH FONMINISTER BLANCO ABOUT DR. JORGE ALVAREZ' TRIP TO WASHINGTON
ON WGSTT MATTERS. FONMINISTER ALSO BROUGHT UP TRADE ACT, OAS AND
BUENOS AIRES MFM ALL OF WHICH I AM REPORTING TOGETHER BECAUSE OF
THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIP.

2. ON WGSTT AND TRAVEL OF ALVAREZ. I TOLD THE FONMINISTER OUR
INTEREST
IN CONSULTATIONS ON WGSTT MATTERSPRIOR MONTEVIDEO MEETING WAS
AS KEEN AS EVER AND THAT I HEARD EARLIER IN THE DAY OF DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER'S FIRM HOPE THAT DR. JORGE ALVAREZ
WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AS PLANNED. BLANCO SAID DECREE AUTHORIZING
ALVAREZ' VISIT WOULD BE SIGNED TODAY, JAN 14, AND ALVAREZ WOULD LEAVE
ON FIRST AVAILABLE FLIGHT. BLANCO REITERATED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED
TO
CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND TO WGSTT MATTERS.

3. TRADE ACT. (A) BLANCO ALSO SAID HE WOULD BE BRIEFING ALVAREZ ON
GOU'S GENERAL VIEWS ON TRADE ACT AND WOULD INSTRUCT HIM TO DISCUSS
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 00122 141331Z

THESE IN WASHINGTON AS WELL. BLANCO STRESSED ALVAREZ NOT EXPERT IN

TRADE MATTERS, BUT NEVERTHELESS HE, BLANCO, W
NHED DEPT TO HAVE

GOU'S PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL VIEWS. BLANCO ADDED HE WOULD BE
ASKING ME TO COME IN SOON IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MORE COMPLETE EXPOS-
ITION ON GOU'S POSITION. (B) FONMINISTER SAID HE THOUGHT GOU'S
PUBLIC POSITION UP TO THIS TIME HAD BEEN REASONABLE AND PRUDENT IN
KEEPING WITH ITS DESIRE TO STUDY TRADE ACT IN DEPTH BEFORE MAKING
PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS. HE SAID HE WANTED ME TO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT
GOU WOULD COME DOWN HARD ON SEVERAL POINTS--WHICH HE WAS NOT PRE-
PARED TO DISCUSS NOW--FOR TWO REASONS. ONE, THEY WOULD BE MATTERS
OF IMPORTANCE TO THE GOU AND TWO, IN THE HOPE THT DOING SO WOULD
MAKE CONGRESS AWARE OF URUGUAY'S SPECIAL PROBLEMS
WITH THE ACT.

(C) IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, BLANCO SAID THE LETTER RECENTLY
DLIVERED TO PRESIDENT BORDABERRY FROM PRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA WAS
MORE BALANCED AND IN A LOWER KEY THAN THE GOU HAD EXPECTED.

4. TRADE ACT, OAS AND MF. BLANCO SAID HE WAS OPPOSED TO DIS-
CUSSION OF THE TRADE ACT IN THE OFFICIAL OAS FORUM. HE THOUGHT
THIS WOILD INEVITABLY LEAD TO A SITUATION OF CONFRONTATION WHICH MUST
BE AVOIDED. HE SAID WHILE THIS WAS HIS POSITION, THE GOU, FOR
OBVIOUS REASONS, WOULD NOT BE
ABLE TO OPPOSE PUBLICLY THE CONVOKING
OF THE OAS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE STILL HOPED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE
MATTER COULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE OAS AND DISCUSSED AT BUENOS AIRES
WHICH HE VIEWED AS THE PROPER FORUM IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF
THE DIALOGUE. HE ADDED THE GOU WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD
THROUGH BILATERAL MEANS TO CONVEY THESE VIEWS TO OTHER LAS.
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